



THE KYEM PROTECTOR

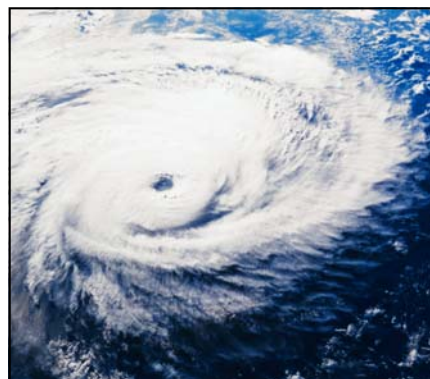
"News and Views of Emergency Management"

October, 2008

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TEAMS EVALUATE IKE WINDSTORM DAMAGE

For the third time this year, Kentucky communities are recovering from disaster damages sustained to the local public infrastructure. No sooner were Kentucky officials able to assist in returning Hurricane Gustav evacuees home to Louisiana, when Kentucky was slammed by the remnants of Hurricane Ike. After causing catastrophic damage in Galveston and other parts of Texas, Ike continued its northeast journey, leaving a huge path of destruction in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys.

On September 14, remnants of Hurricane Ike, combined with a cold front crossing the Ohio Valley, caused extremely strong surface winds to blow through the Commonwealth. Hurricane-force wind gusts (some recorded up to 75 MPH) were felt, causing an immense number of downed trees and power outages in numerous counties, leaving people in the dark without essential services for at least a week after the wind storm. Tragically, four Kentucky fatalities have been attributed to the storm. One of which was a 10-year-old boy in Shelby County, who was killed when struck by a falling tree limb.



Federal, state and local damage assessment teams have completed the joint preliminary assessments for damages caused by the windstorm. The estimated damage to Kentucky's infrastructure is more than \$17.8 million to local communities and private non-profit utilities. The assessment teams verified damage to the public infrastructure in 37 Kentucky counties which included: Ballard, Boone, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Caldwell, Calloway, Campbell, Carlisle, Carroll, Crittenden, Daviess, Fulton, Gallatin, Graves, Hancock, Hardin, Hickman, Henderson, Hopkins, Jefferson, Kenton, Larue, Livingston,

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Damage Assessment Teams Evaluate Ike Windstorm Damage

Rep. Tanya Pullin - A Look Into Her Support for Emergency Management

KAPA to Receive Prestigious National Award

Pandemic Workshop

Help When Crisis Hits

EKU Hosts Annual Rescue School

Updating the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan

Preparing Kentucky's Emergency Response Community - A Workshop Invitation

From the Director

Continued from Page 1

Lyon, Marshall, Meade, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Oldham, Shelby, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Washington and Webster.

The Governor made a formal request to the President seeking a Presidential Declaration under the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

The Governor was notified on October 9, the declaration (KY DR 20081862) was approved. This opens the door for state and local governments and certain private non-profit organizations to request public assistance. In addition, all eligible counties affected can apply for assistance under the Federal 404 Hazard Mitigation Program to help fund measures that prevent or reduce the threat of future damage.

FEMA RELEASES NEW COUNTY PER CAPITA THRESHOLD FORMULA

Beginning October 1, 2008, the new formula FEMA uses to determine county damage thresholds is:

Threshold Cost Per Capita Formula

\$3.28/person x County Population

Statewide Threshold Cost Per Capita Formula:

\$1.31/person

x

4,041,769 persons*

\$5,294,717.39

*Population figures based on 2000 US Census

REPRESENTATIVE TANYA PULLIN

A Look into her Support for Emergency Management



State Representative Tanya Pullin has been a long time supporter of emergency management. That is why she was excited when she was appointed Chair of the House Seniors, Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee.

Pullin, who lives in Greenup County, and is now serving her fourth term as State Representative for the 98th Legislative District in the Kentucky House of Representatives, said "I think my first piece of legislation was a resolution requesting state agencies to make an effort to reduce paper work for Volunteer Fire Departments and much of my work in the General Assembly through the years has been in support of our first responders."

Representative Pullin, a graduate of Greenup County High School, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Kentucky and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

During her career, Representative Pullin has successfully sponsored many bills in the House

of Representatives, including legislation to build and repair Kentucky's natural gas pipelines, encourage broadband deployment in the state, help students afford a college education and require safe clean up of meth labs.

Pullin has received national recognition for innovative legislation to help consumers save money on their energy bills and to conserve energy. She also created the Kentucky Natural Gas Pipeline Authority.

"Some people were a little surprised that I chose this Committee. Some thought it wouldn't be very exciting, but I think the work that Kentucky Emergency Management and the Kentucky National Guard does is very exciting and one of the most important jobs in state government," said Representative Pullin. She also stated she is looking forward to working with KyEM's new director, BG John Heltzel. "We have already met several times and I'm excited about the things he wants to accomplish. I hope to help KyEM be prepared for all types of emergencies," she said.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

According to Representative Pullin, the House Seniors, Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee has grown in membership significantly in the last year.

"The people involved with this Committee work very hard with their nose to the grindstone. During this past session quite a few of the bills that were passed and became laws came out of this Committee," said Representative Pullin.

Representative Pullin also sits on several sub-committees that deal in matters related to emergency management. One is the 911

Committee which is finding new ways for 911 Centers to respond to emergencies. At Representative Pullin's request, Speaker Jody Richards formed a 911 working group as part of the work of the Committee on Seniors, Military Affairs and Public Safety.

"We are studying the new technologies people are using to communicate. Many people today are using cell phones rather than land lines. It won't be easy, we will have a number of meetings and testimony. It's hard to keep up with new technology," said Representative Pullin.

For more information on Representative Pullin, visit www.lrc.ky.gov/legislator/H098.htm.

KAPA TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD



Mark Harrison
KAPA President

The American Ambulance Association (AAA) has selected the Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association (KAPA) as the recipient of its 2008 Annual Partnership Award.

The Partnership Award is presented to individuals who have made an outstanding commitment of time and resources in accomplishing a specific objective or project for the AAA. KAPA was nominated for this award because of its federal legislative activities, including an annual Washington, DC, Congressional trip by several of its members and their partnership with AAA during those trips.

Tristan North, AAA Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, said "The Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association was instrumental in securing much needed Medicare ambulance relief and served as an important partner on other key industry initiatives such as additional homeland security funding for EMS providers."

KAPA President Mark Harrison said, "we are honored to have been chosen to receive this award. Our accomplishments are a reflection of

the efforts of so many of our members. And, I am proud to be a part of such a great group of people."

On July 15, the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate both voted to override the President's veto of the physician fix package which included an ambulance provision that took effect immediately. The physician fix package, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (H.R. 6331), contains an 18-month Medicare increase of 2% urban and 3% rural for ambulance service providers. This relief began retroactively from July 1 of this year and expires December 31, 2009.

Less than three months earlier, KAPA had met with and obtained the support of each Kentucky congressman, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. It is estimated that this provision alone will provide approximately \$170 million in desperately-needed Medicare relief for ambulance services across the country.

For more information on AAA, visit:
www.the-aaa.org.

For more information on KAPA, visit:
www.hultgren.org/assoc/kapa/index.html.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA WORKSHOP

KYEM and KYNG hosted a two day Pandemic Influenza (PI) Workshop on October 7 - 8, 2008 at the Cabinet of Transportation. The PI Workshop included representatives from state and local government, federal agencies, KYEM and KYNG.

The workshop included informational briefings and break-out discussions by functional groups to refine planning on how state and local government would respond to a PI outbreak in Kentucky. The workshop was the initial event in

a one-year planning phase that will culminate in a full scale exercise for KYEM and KYNG August 1 - 9, 2009.

BG Heltzel committed, " I'm very pleased with the turn out. One thing emergency management needs to improve on is involving state government and the business communities." He added, "The stronger we make our ties with communities across the Commonwealth, the stronger we will all be."

HELP WHEN CRISIS HITS

KCCRB Provides Crisis Intervention Services - 'Psychological First Aid' Following Crisis and Disasters

A violent thunderstorm spawns a tornado, whipping through your county, causing fatalities and devastating neighborhoods within seconds.

Summer rains soak already saturated grounds, bringing mudslides and causing major flooding throughout communities.

A disgruntled employee kills five coworkers before turning the gun on himself at a busy industry in your county.

In a natural or man-made disaster, many events will occur which will necessitate the coordination and delivery of crisis intervention and disaster behavioral health services. When this type of "psychological first aid" is needed, there is help available 24/7 by contacting the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board (KCCRB) at 888-522-7228.

The board, created under KRS Chapter 36 and Chapter 42, ensures an organized, rapid and effective response in the aftermath of crisis and disaster. KCCRB is the state's lead disaster mental health agency, coordinating services in collaboration with local and regional mental health providers.

"Psychological first aid" applies the basic concepts of protect, direct and connect. It can:

- Address immediate physical needs.
- Comfort and console affected individuals.
- Provide concrete information about where to turn for help.
- Listen to and validate reactions.
- Link individuals to support systems.
- Normalize stress reactions to trauma and sudden loss.
- Reinforce positive coping skills.



KCCRB provides assessments, crisis intervention, service collaboration and system development following disasters. It also provides multi-component crisis intervention services statewide. This includes responding to crises with first

responders, schools, business or community organizations, as invited.

If a crisis should ever occur in your community, officials or organizational leadership may request a response team by calling the 24-hour toll-free number at 888-522-7228.

EKU HOSTS ANNUAL RESCUE SCHOOL

Eastern Kentucky University hosted the annual Rescue School presented by the Texas Engineering Extension Service. Over 200 participants were in attendance from all over Kentucky. A variety of classes were offered, including a Wide Area Search Class, Ground Search and Rescue, Managing Land Search Operations, Inland Water and Dragging Operations, Rope Assisted Rescue and Trench Rescue.

For more information about Kentucky Emergency Management Search and Rescue, contact Melanie Hilliard at (502) 607-5722.



UPDATING THE KENTUCKY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

On August 14, 2008, 35 people representing over 15 state cabinets and agencies, as well as representatives from the Red Cross and Salvation Army, gathered at the Kentucky History Museum to begin the process of the coordinated update to the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan. The update of the State Plan is in response to the most recent release of the Federal coordination emergency response document called the National Response Framework (NSF).

Participants were welcomed by BG John Heltzel, Director, Kentucky Emergency Management, and given a brief overview of how the updates will benefit emergency response operations by Dr. William Hacker, Undersecretary for Health, Cabinet for Health Services. Dr. Hacker and BG Heltzel both stressed the need for the State Plan to be a product of a collective effort and emphasized the importance of having the responding agencies part of the plan-writing process.

The agencies were given an overview of the current State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the Federal National Response Framework (NRF) and then introduced to the main sections of the new State EOP, which are: the Basic Plan; Emergency Support Functions; Support Plans; and Incident Specific Plans. Each section was reviewed and related to the comparable section within the current Plan and how it integrated with the NRF.

The most important new component of the new Plan is the Emergency Support Function. Under the current Plan, agencies are loosely grouped around an emergency response theme and then tasked in accordance with their capability. Under the ESF, agencies are pre-organized around a specific emergency response activity, such as transportation, and are tasked as a single emergency organizational group, rather than as individual agencies. This allows for a high level of pre-planning and networking between agencies before an emergency occurs and results in a better informed and coordinated overall response.

The meeting ended with the establishment of an executive planning group which will provide initial review of draft documents, give general guidance on the planning process and provide executive oversight of the entire effort. A Basic Plan section was introduced as the first draft document for the entire planning group to review and return comments to the executive planning group no later than September 30, 2008.

As the new State EOP is developed, finished drafts will be posted to the Division of Emergency Management website for final public review and comment. The project end date is June 2009.

For more information about the new State EOP, please visit www.kyem.ky.gov and select the Planning webpage.

A WORKSHOP PREPARING KENTUCKY'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMUNITY

**Audience is intended to be Emergency Management, Fire Service,
Emergency Medical Service and Law Enforcement agency leaders**

This one day workshop will include information on the following topics:

*Resource Management Process - How to obtain mutual aid resources in times of disaster
National Incident Management System requirements for your agency's resource typing
Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Service-Strike Team formation and process
Kentucky Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan Update*

Workshops will begin at 9:00am (local time) and end at 4:30pm (local time)

Lunch will be provided

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to assist agencies in completing and understanding their resource typing requirements in the National Incident Management System. The workshop will include specific information about emergency medical service resources, the process in which resources are obtained in Kentucky, an opportunity to update your State-wide mutual aid agreement and information about the County and State Emergency Operations plan update and transition to the new Emergency Support Functions. The intent of this workshop is to enhance our state wide ability to respond to a catastrophic event in Kentucky.

Registration: To register for any of these sessions, please fax page 2 of this announcement to John Bastin at (502) 607-5710.

**ALL SESSIONS WILL CONTAIN IDENTICAL CONTENT. THE LARGE NUMBER OF SESSIONS
ARE BEING HELD TO ACCOMMODATE ALL RESPONDERS.**

For more information call John Bastin at 502-607-1658.

**Please complete the following page for meal planning purposes and
submit to John Bastin prior to attending these workshops.**



KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the following form.

Dates:	Location:	Check which session you will be attending
October 22nd, 2008	Kentucky Dam Village State Park (FULL)	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 6th, 2008	Pennyrile Forest State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 7th, 2008	Lake Barkley State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 19th, 2008	Lake Cumberland State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
December 3rd, 2008	Jenny Wiley State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
December 4th, 2008	Blue Lick's Battlefield State Park	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

To register for any of these sessions, please fax this form to John Bastin at (502) 607-5710

One Team - One Mission
Protect **OUR** Commonwealth



FROM THE DIRECTOR...



After an extremely busy two months, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone throughout the Commonwealth for all your hard work.

When the call went out from FEMA needing host states for evacuees from Hurricane Gustav, not many states were quick to respond. Knowing the complications associated with hosting such large numbers of evacuees, Kentucky never flinched. Through a coordinated effort between local, state, federal and volunteer officials, Kentucky hosted approximately 1,400 individuals from Louisiana.

Just as we were able to return those folks home, the remnants of Hurricane Ike hit Kentucky. By the end of the day, Kentucky was responding to damages caused by sustained winds recorded over 75mph, resulting in over half a million homes and businesses without power across the Commonwealth. Unofficially, four deaths were attributed to the storm.

After it was over and damage assessments were completed, of the 37 counties and 41 cities that declared states of emergencies, 34 counties met or exceeded their threshold. Governor Beshear quickly called for a Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance, which we received on October 9, 2008.

I want to say thanks to everyone for all your hard work. Not only did we work through two disasters, but we also held the Kentucky Emergency Services Conference. In spite of a late move from Owensboro to Lexington and Hurricane Gustav, the conference was a huge success. This was possible through many long hours put in by dedicated servants of the Commonwealth. I was able to meet new friends and members of our EM Team across the state. I hope to meet even more of you in the near future.

Again, on behalf of emergency management, thanks for all you do in "protecting our Commonwealth." Keep up the good work!



KYEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 20** EOC Training
 - Teams A, B and C at SEOC
- 29** CSEPP Annual Exercise
- 30** CSEPP Hot Wash
- 31** Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 5** Election Day
- 11** Veterans Day - 20th Anniversary
 - Vietnam War Memorial, Frankfort
- 13** CSEPP IPT
 - Madison Co. JIC - 8:30 am
- 17-21** KCCRB Quarterly Meeting
 - Frankfort - 1:00 pm, State EOC
- 27-28** Thanksgiving Holiday

DID YOU KNOW?

- The old official state tree was the Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*.) The tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is the current official state tree. The change was made in 1976.
- Cheeseburgers were first served in 1934 at Kaolin's restaurant in Louisville.
- Begun in 1819 the first commercial oil well was on the Cumberland River in McCreary County.
- Kentucky is the state where both Abraham Lincoln, President of the Union, and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, were born. They were born less than one hundred miles and one year apart.
- More than 100 native Kentuckians have been elected governors of other states.